

Amendments To the Claims:

Please amend the claims as shown. Applicants reserve the right to pursue any cancelled claims at a later date.

1-27. (canceled)

28. (currently amended) A method for communication and/or transmission of information between automation devices via a data transmission system, the method comprising:

sending and/or receiving requests and/or replies by each participating automation device, wherein

the communication and/or transmission of information takes place directly between the automation devices; and

sending an address by the automation devices directly to the automation device which submits the request,

wherein all of the automation devices forward each request which arrives via a receiving mechanism to all other automation devices for which it has knowledge.

29. (previously presented) The method according to Claim 28, wherein the communication between the automation devices takes place in the form of peer-to-peer communication.

30. (previously presented) The method according to Claim 28, wherein the communication and/or transmission of information takes place via an Intranet and/or Internet.

31. (previously presented) The method according to Claim 28, wherein communication takes place via a basic service of an operating system.

32. (previously presented) The method according to Claim 28, wherein each automation device sends a request via the data transmission system to all other automation devices of which it has knowledge.

33. (canceled)

34. (previously presented) The method according to Claim 28, wherein the automation devices directly collect information from automation devices which make information available at the address which has been sent.

35. (previously presented) The method according to Claim 28, wherein the forwarding of the request through the automation devices is canceled on the basis of a time limit.

36. (currently amended) The method according to Claim 28, wherein a plurality of automation devices are configured to send and receive requests and the addresses of the participating automation devices are managed by a device other than one of the automation devices which is connected to the data transmission system.

37. (currently amended) An automation device for communicating with and/or transmitting information to and from further automation devices via a data transmission system, the automation device comprising:

mechanisms for sending and/or receiving requests and/or replies, wherein the mechanisms are adapted for direct communication and/or transmission of information between the automation devices, and wherein

the automation device is used for directly sending an address to an automation device which submits a request,

wherein the mechanisms are adapted to forward each request which arrives via a receiving mechanism to all other automation devices for which there is knowledge.

38. (previously presented) The automation device according to Claim 37, wherein the mechanisms are used for peer-to-peer communication between the automation devices.

39. (previously presented) The automation device according to Claim 37, wherein the mechanisms for sending and/or receiving are designed as a basic service of an operating system for communication.

40. (previously presented) The automation device according to Claim 37, wherein the automation device is used for sending a request via the data transmission system to all other automation devices of which it has knowledge.

41. (currently amended) The automation device according to Claim 37, wherein the data transmission system includes a plurality of automation devices each configured to send and receive requests and a device in addition to the automation devices which manages the addresses of the participating automation devices. ~~the automation device is adapted for forwarding a request, which arrives via the sending and/or receiving mechanisms, to all other automation devices which it knows, which have not yet received the request.~~

42. (previously presented) The automation device according to Claim 37, wherein the mechanisms for sending and/or receiving are adapted for the direct collection of information from automation devices which make information available at the address which has been sent.

43. (currently amended) The automation device according to Claim 37, wherein the request comprises ~~comprising~~ a mechanisms for canceling its forwarding through the automation devices on the basis of a time limit.

44. (currently amended) An automation system comprising:

a data transmission system for communicating and/or transmitting information between automation devices; and

at least one automation device, the automation device comprising:

mechanisms for sending and/or receiving requests and/or replies, wherein the mechanisms are adapted for direct communication and/or transmission of information between the automation devices, and wherein:

the automation device is adapted for directly sending an address to an automation device which submits a request and

the mechanisms are adapted to forward each request which arrives via a receiving mechanism to all other automation devices for which there is knowledge.

45. (previously presented) The automation system according to Claim 44, wherein the data transmission system is an Intranet and/or Internet.

46. (currently amended) The automation system according to Claim 44, wherein a plurality of additional automation devices are configured to send and receive requests, the system further comprising a device other than one of the automation devices connected to the data transmission system for managing the addresses of the participating automation devices.